

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th May 1901.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
Nil.		Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
(a)—Police—		A railway complaint ...	413
Enquiry into the affairs of the Noakhali police ...	403	Famine and railway extension in India ...	ib.
Suspected cattle-poisoning in the Netrakona sub-division ...	ib.	Grievances of passengers on the Assam Bengal Railway ...	ib.
An untraced murder in the Faridpur district ...	ib.	Amalgamation of the Govindpur Subdivision with the Burdwan district ...	ib.
Highway robbers in the Faridpur district ...	404	The Deputy Magistrate Maulvi Abdul Kader ...	414
The police in a case of attempted outrage ...	ib.	The proposed abolition of the Bankura district ...	ib.
Complaint against a Police Sub-Inspector in the Faridpur district ...	ib.	Corporal punishment of a clerk ...	ib.
Detective police required in the Faridpur district ...	ib.	The new rule about Engineering appointments ...	ib.
A case of suspected murder in the Murshidabad district ...	ib.		
A theft case in the Murshidabad district ...	405	(h)—General.	
An affray at Brahmanbaria ...	ib.	Nil.	
The Noakhali Police Enquiry Commission ...	ib.	III.—LEGISLATION.	
Badmashes at Barisal ...	ib.	Nil.	
Complaint against an Inspector of Police in Chittagong ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The police ...	406	The Maharaja of Cashmere and his Musalman subjects ...	ib.
Sale of cocaine in Calcutta ...	407		
Manufacture of spurious quinine, &c., in Calcutta ...	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The Dacca police in the recent collision between two steamers ...	ib.	Water-scarcity in the Faridpur district ...	ib.
Disposal of guns confiscated under the India Arms Act ...	ib.	Famine and water-scarcity in some villages in the Mymensingh district ...	ib.
Missing of women at a fair in the Dacca district ...	ib.		
(b)—Working of the Courts—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
The Police and the Judicial Officers in Faridpur ...	408	Rai Kali Prasanna Ghose Bahadur and the Bhawal Estate ...	415
Honorary Magistrates in the Faridpur district ...	ib.	Improvement of India under British rule ...	ib.
Complaint against Mr. Foley, the Magistrate of Burdwan ...	409		
The Pioneer and Mr. Pennell ...	410	URIA PAPERS.	
Complaint against a Munsif in Barisal ...	411	The question of holding the Civil Service Examinations in India ...	418
The Koderma shooting case ...	ib.	Scarcity of food apprehended in Orissa ...	ib.
The Koderma shooting case ...	ib.	The road cess and the public works cess on the chaulkidari lands ...	ib.
Exactions of bailiffs and peons in Calcutta ...	ib.	A proposal to authorise Orissa zemindars to recover rents on a sum in any procedure ...	ib.
The Koderma shooting case ...	ib.		
(c)—Jails—		ASSAM PAPERS.	
Nil.			
(d)—Education—			
Nil.			
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
Complaints against pound-keepers ...	412		
The chief cause of malaria in India ...	ib.		
The road cess and water-scarcity ...	ib.		
Complaints against the Calcutta Municipality ...	ib.		

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

Week ending 12th May 1901

CONTENTS

The following are the titles of the papers published in Bengal during the week ending 12th May 1901:

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[The following text is mirrored and largely illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a).—Police.

The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 14th May has the following:—

Enquiry into the affairs of the Noakhali police.

The Noakhali cases have shown how the police administration in Bengal is conducted. It is not that there are no honest and upright men in the Police Department, but the public are getting disgusted with the general corruption which prevails in that branch of the public service. That corruption is lowering the prestige of the executive day by day. This is inevitable when the promoters of peace and order give themselves up to injustice and oppression. Mr. Pennell blackened the Noakhali police, to which Mr. Geidt has only given a darker shade. Mr. Bonham-Carter has been appointed to enquire into the affairs of the Noakhali police, and the result of the enquiry is awaited with anxiety.

Not only the Noakhali police but the police in general grossly abuse their power. Instead of upholding the cause of truth and justice, which it is the duty of the police to do, they not unoften unhesitatingly sacrifice truth and justice for the sake of illegal gratification. In hundreds of cases they concoct evidence and suppress real facts.

Imdad Ali of Munshiganj is charged with improper conduct. A writer-constable of Bongaon in Jessore is charged with oppressing a fisherman. Of the five cases against the Govindganj police who were charged with levying blackmail, two have been proved. One feels indignant to think of the outrage committed on two women by the Sub-Inspector and the head-constable of the Patuakhali police-station. The Kamrup police has earned notoriety. It is the Police Department which is to blame for such cases which have become universal. It will not do to enquire into the affairs of the Noakhali police alone. Government should give up its illusive idea of prestige and make a sifting enquiry into the administration of the police, whose corruption casts a slur on the Executive authorities too.

Grave doubts are entertained by some as to the result of the Enquiry Commission since Mr. Bonham-Carter has been appointed to it, and Mr. Cargill has been asked to help him in the enquiry. Mr. Cargill has every interest to screen the Noakhali police. Under such circumstances, he should not have been asked to help in the enquiry at all.

The Police Department should be made to follow the system which obtains in the Postal Department. In the Postal Department all the officers are found to be anxious to bring an offender to justice, whereas in the Police Department all the officers try to screen him. Educated men should be employed in the police service on a higher scale of pay, and worthlessness should give way to ability and merit.

2. The same paper says that in the Banglagram village, in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district, about 30 or 35 bullocks died recently under suspicious circumstances. The *chamars* are suspected to have poisoned the animals. The police ought to make a sifting enquiry into the matter.

3. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th May says that the police has at last submitted a B form in connection with the murder of Govinda Chandra Niyogi noticed in a previous issue of this paper (Report on Native Papers of the 4th May 1901, paragraph 11). The deceased had some landed property and was a money-lender in his native village and its vicinity, so that he had frequently to seek the help of the law courts, in order to realise his dues from his raiyats and debtors, and most probably that was the reason why he was murdered. Such murders are not infrequent in the Faridpur district. Some time ago, Kunja Vihari Guha, of village Sriramdia, and Vishnu Chandra Banerji, of village Daserchar, under the Ainpur thana were murdered for similar reasons. But the murderers have not been traced. Life has become extremely insecure for the middle-class landholders in this district. They have to pay the land revenue on account of their estates, but are afraid to compel their raiyats to pay their rents.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 14th, 1901.

CHARU MIHIR.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 14th, 1901.

Faridpur
Hitaishini
May 14th, 1901.

4. The same paper says that for some time past the road between Mallikpur and Brahmandanga, in the Faridpur district, has been infested by dacoits. After night-fall and for some hours before daybreak they remain seated on the branches of the roadside trees and attack helpless wayfarers. Recently a respectable Government servant in Faridpur was attacked by them, but somehow managed to escape. On another occasion the dacoits attacked Babus Beni Madhav Bhaduri and Prasanna Kumar Banerji, of Ghopghat, under the banyan tree at Mallikpur, but fled on hearing a noise at a distance. The ruffians may be apprehended if the local police make a secret enquiry or follow them in disguise.

Faridpur
Hitaishini.

5. The same paper says that recently the Postmaster of the Sonapura post office within the jurisdiction of the Belekandi thana, in the Faridpur district, filed a complaint at that thana to the effect that during his absence from his lodging, the son of one Jadav Chandra Ghosh entered his room through a hole in the wall, which the offender had made for the purpose, and attempted to outrage the modesty of his young wife. A postman, who was lying on the verandah of the room, on hearing her scream for help, raised a cry, which made the man take to his heels when he was observed by persons who knew him. But the police has submitted a C form in the case.

Babu Jadav Chandra Ghosh is a powerful man in this part of the country, being the local *naib* of the estate of the Nawab of Dacca, and it is very hard to prove a case like this against his son.

Faridpur
Hitaishini.

6. The same paper says that during the last rains information was given to the police in charge of the Pangsha thana in the Faridpur district that some drift timber had been saved from the Padma, and it was purchased by the Sub-Inspector in charge for five rupees in the name of another man. But finding that the real price of the timber was at least seventy rupees, some persons prevented its removal by the daroga, with a view of informing the Magistrate of the fact. A case was brought against them, with the result that the defendants have been fined five rupees each.

Faridpur
Hitaishini.

7. The same paper says that rowdyism, theft, dacoity, murder, &c., are fast increasing in the Faridpur district. The police seldom succeeds in bringing the real culprits to justice, while in not a few cases innocent persons are subjected to oppression. Under these circumstances, it behoves Government to depute some competent detective officers to the district.

Murshidabad
Hitaishi,
May 15th, 1901.

8. Referring to the suspicious death of one Gokul Barai of Chutipur in the Murshidabad district, referred to in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 11th May 1901, paragraph 6), a correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 15th May writes as follows:—

Forty-eight persons, who had signed the application for enquiry, appeared before the Joint-Magistrate to be examined as witnesses. Only five of them were examined by him. The evidence of these five witnesses could not be relied upon, because some of them were the daroga's men and others gave their evidence in a faltering manner. Nevertheless, the Joint-Magistrate expressed the view that the whole case had arisen out of a dispute with the police, and the Inspector's report on the case was true.

Many rich and powerful men of the locality are trying their best to hush up the case.

The Joint-Magistrate raised the question that none appeared to prosecute the case. The reasons were (1) that many of the relations of those who should have been the plaintiffs in the case were implicated in it; (2) that they were afraid and unwilling to give publicity to caste scandals. The conduct of the police in this case has been suspicious from the beginning. So there should be a thorough enquiry into the matter.

Some time ago there were two other murders in the neighbouring villages, but neither of them was traced.

9. The same paper says that on the night of the 10th instant, a large stock of paddy, worth about Rs. 600, was stolen from the house of one Abdur Rahim *alias* Khepa Miya in village Sijgram in the Murshidabad district.

A theft case in the Murshidabad district.

It must have required no less than forty to fifty men to remove such a large quantity of paddy. But it is a matter of wonder that they did not attract the notice of any chaukidar. The chaukidars are too busy in guarding the houses of their panchayats to attend to other matters.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 15th, 1901.

10. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 15th May says that there was an affray between the local Sahas and Muhammadans at the Brahmanbaria bazar on the 13th instant. One of the wounded Muhammadans died after a few hours. The inoffensive Sahas are said to have been goaded to desperation by the oppressions committed on them by the Muhammadans, which at last led them to take this course. In fact, the local Muhammadans, known as the *chatkis*, *sabjis*, &c., are notoriously oppressive. Though such a serious riot took place in the heart of the town, still none of the police officers appeared on the spot.

An affray at Brahmanbaria.

PRATINIDHI,
May 15th, 1901.

11. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th May has the following:—The inefficiency of the Noakhali police was brought to light by Mr. Pennell, but Government thought that his mind was unhinged, and so paid no attention to his allegations regarding that police. But Government could no longer remain indifferent when that impartial Judge, Mr. Geidt, fully corroborated Mr. Pennell's allegations. So an Enquiry Commission has been appointed. But Mr. Bonham-Carter is a Civilian Magistrate and Rai Madhusudan Chowdhuri Bahadur is a District Superintendent of Police himself. Considering the attitude of the Government and the High Court in the Pennell affair, it is a matter of grave doubt whether and how far the result of the enquiry will prove satisfactory. Government has asked Mr. Cargill to help in the enquiry. But instead of doing this Government should have transferred him from the district and ordered an independent enquiry by some able men well versed in law, because Mr. Cargill's attitude in the Noakhali note theft case and the murder case is too well known. The Magistrates and the police authorities have been so accustomed to the shortcomings of the police that in their eyes even its gravest faults no longer appear as such. So, it is a matter of doubt whether the defects and shortcomings of the Noakhali police will appear in their true light to the three officers who have been entrusted with the enquiry. But after all, the wisdom of Government is too deep for the public to fathom or appreciate.

The Noakhali Police Enquiry Commission.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 15th, 1901.

12. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 15th May says that the Barisal station on the Khulna line is not safe for passengers as the neighbouring villages are infested with many *badmashes* who miss no opportunity to commit oppressions on travellers. These *badmashes* dog their footsteps if they have money or valuable articles in their possession. The police can do little as the Gopalganj thana is far away from this place.

Badmashes at Barisal.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
May 15th, 1901.

13. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 16th May has the following:—Mirza Ali and Ibrahim of the Charpathar village within the jurisdiction of Patia thana are leaders of a gang of *badmashes* who were implicated in the Karnafuli river dacoity case. The inhabitants of many villages within the jurisdiction of Patia and Sadar thanas deposed that many petty thefts had been committed by this gang, and so the Sub-Inspector of Patia arrested Mirza Ali and Ibrahim and *challaned* them to the Magistrate for trial. The Magistrate enlarged them on bail and ordered the police to send a report under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code. That report was sent to the Inspector Pratap Chundra Sen for transmission to the Magistrate. But a month and a half have elapsed, and yet the Inspector has not submitted it to the Magistrate. Those innocent villagers who gave evidence against the *badmashes* are being extremely oppressed. It is believed that the *badmashes* have won over the Inspector to their side, and so their oppressions go on unchecked. We shall be

Complaint against an Inspector of Police in Chittagong.

JYOTI,
May 16th, 1901.

very glad if the attention of the Magistrate and of the new and keensighted Superintendent of Police be drawn to the matter.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
May 17th, 1901.

14. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 17th May has the following:—

'The police.'

The doings of the police are making us more and more alarmed, and producing in our minds an increasing feeling of regret, shame and hatred. Now we fall at the feet of the police, calling upon it to protect us, now, disgusted at its ill treatment, we flee to a distance. But where are we to go to? The police is present everywhere and it bears the same character everywhere—its tongue lolling out and its mouth incessantly uttering a cry of hunger. Wherever we go, we find the police wearing a fierce, fiery aspect. We are not afraid to embrace a red-hot iron rod. But we are overpowered with a fear like that of death on seeing a policeman's solid, firm-set body, his fire-shooting eyes and his face more repulsive than a gutter of hell itself.

We need not listen to those who say that it is our habit to find fault with the police and not to see anything good in what it does. The Government itself has now come to see that the police exists for oppressing the people, and not for protecting them, that it is more intent on filling its own pockets than on finding out where misery exists. It is because the Government has come to see all this, that so much care is being taken and such preparations are being made for reforming the police, and the Government of Bengal being satisfied that an enquiry into the condition of the Noakhali police was necessary, appointed Mr. Bonham-Carter and Rai Madhusudan Chaudhuri to make the enquiry.

When the police does anything wrong, fear does not prevent us from speaking about it, nor can mercy induce us to condone the act. We do not wish to humour anybody for any reason. The consideration that the police consists mainly of our own countrymen never deters us from speaking out the truth against it. Even if the police be our own kith and kin, shall we keep silent over any oppression like that committed by it on Babu Duksha Nivaran? Babu Duksha Nivaran is the son of a respectable man and teacher. Innocent as he was, the police unnecessarily harassed him either for the sake of money or for the sake of getting credit for ability. But, thanks to a fair trial, he has been acquitted. Will the friends and supporters of the police now say who is responsible for this wrong act? Instances of police oppression like this can be multiplied, but who is to see them or speak about them? A gentleman of Poradaha was kicked down the other day by a policeman, and a man of Rajshahi was a short time ago insulted and made, under threats held out by a Sub-Inspector, to sign his name on a blank piece of paper. Has anybody had the courage to say anything about these two cases? Justice cannot be had in the English Law Courts without spending money.

Let us now speak of the horrifying case which occurred the other day before our very eyes. It is for the reader to judge whether a case like this puts the police in the light of the people's protector or their devourer.

An inhuman outrage was committed on a girl of twelve, the wife of a seller of *mithais*, by a police constable and two *havildars* in Salban in Rangpur town. Rumour has it that the three wretches with the help of some disrespectful female neighbours of the girl enticed her away from home on the plea of taking her to her father's house and concealed her in a jungle. It was after the girl had been subjected to heart-rending outrages for three days together that the worthy Sub-Inspector of Police, Babu Rai Charan, rescued her from the jungle and sent up the accused. The poor girl is now lying on her death-bed in the charitable dispensary. Our pen is too weak to describe the poor creature's condition, and our eyes fill with tears to think of her. It is not in our power fully to describe the sufferings she underwent—starvation for three days and the outrage she was subjected to as evidenced by her bloodstained cloth. We cannot remember the like of such a possible outrage ever occurring in the heart of the town. It is superfluous to add that so long as the police will consist of men without character and respectability of birth, such occurrences will not become impossible.

15. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 18th May says that although Government requires a license to be taken out authorising the sale of cocaine as an intoxicating substance, yet the sale of the article has not diminished in Calcutta. Cocaine-vendors are being prosecuted and fined; but they are selling it all the same. Government should pass an order that the wholesale dealers in the article shall not sell it without the prescriptions of doctors. It is rumoured that even Messrs. B. K. Pal and Company sell cocaine to anybody and everybody.

NAVAYUG,
May 18th, 1901.

16. The same paper says that worthless and pernicious imitations of "quinine" and "De Jongh's Cod Liver Oil" are being manufactured in Calcutta, and sold to people in the mufassal. The new Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, should keep a sharp eye on the matter.

NAVAYUG.

17. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 19th May says that at 10 P.M. on the night of the last *Astami* bathing festival, a fearful collision took place between two steamers of the India General Steam Navigation Company, both returning with passengers from the Langanband fair in the Dacca district. Both of the vessels were severely injured, and one of them required a day's repair before it could start again.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 19th, 1901.

The shock which broke two such steamers must have been felt as very fearful by the passengers on board, and it is rumoured that many lives were lost. The dead bodies of two passengers were rescued by the police, but those of others who are missing could not be found. The relatives of the dead are unwilling to carry on costly and harassing law-suits with the rich and powerful India General Steam Navigation Company, with whom Government even fears to come into friction.

It is to be regretted that the Magistrate of Dacca has as yet done nothing to bring those responsible for the collision to justice.

18. The same paper says that at present no less than two thousand guns, taken away from private persons under the Indian Arms Act, are deposited in the Dacca Criminal Court. The rule is to destroy such guns. But while carrying out the policy of disarmament, some justice at least can be done by selling these guns and paying the proceeds to their owners.

DACCA PRAKASH.

Missing of women at a fair in the Dacca district.

19. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 20th May has the following in English:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 20th, 1901.

The Alleged Missing of Women at the Langanband Fair.

In our issue of the 22nd April last, when noticing the annual Langanband Fair, we stated that, as in preceding years, some 12 women were reported to have been missing this year also. In spite of our misgivings as to the absolute accuracy of the reports then flying about in the town, we thought it proper to give publicity to them with a view to draw the attention of the authorities, when we found them substantially corroborated by the special correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, who was personally present at the fair on that day. We are glad our object has been more than fulfilled. The statement attracted, as it should have, the immediate attention of Mr. Savage, the Divisional Commissioner, who ordered his Personal Assistant to address us on the subject, and ascertain, if possible, the source of our information. As might have been expected, we forthwith sent him a reply, giving the source of our information, and we naturally hoped that Mr. Savage would approach the special correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on the subject to know all about the matter at first-hand from the above-mentioned gentleman. But instead of caring to know what the correspondent has to say, and without holding any special enquiry as suggested in our letter of reply, Mr. Savage has caused a letter to be sent to us authoritatively contradicting the statement. We are told that the rumours had no foundation in fact. We need hardly say, we referred the matter to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* correspondent, who has, a matter-of-fact man as he is, supplied us with some facts which Mr. Savage will find very hard to swallow, harder still to digest. We are indebted to the courtesy of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* correspondent for an advance copy of

the letter he has sent to his paper on the subject, from which we quote the following for the edification, if not the guidance, of the local officials:—

"Excepting the Police officers, a Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Collector with his staff, the District Engineer with his staff, and a Hospital Assistant with his staff were stationed at the fair. If enquiries were made from them, they could have enlightened the authorities of the truth or otherwise of girls being missed or kidnapped. On further enquiry I could know that the Police got information of ten missing girls, of which nine were found at the time and one afterwards. This ten cannot include the missing of 'a widow of 25 years of age who went out to ease herself at midnight, but never returned.' I am told that this widow belongs to the Comilla or Noakhali district. Will any one of that quarter take the trouble of enlightening me as to the native village, &c., of the woman? The Sub-Deputy Collector, is aware of the circumstances under which she was missed."

We have no doubt Mr. Savage will find in the above quotation food for serious consideration. The correspondent has furnished certain clues which the authorities had better try before assuming that oracular tone.

To make matters worse still, we give below an extract from the *Kasipur Nivasi* of Barisal which will speak for itself:—

The Khanjapur correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* newspaper in its issue of the 8th instant, writes in Bengali of which the following is a translation:—

"Rajlakshmi Devi, the daughter of Babu Rameswar Banerjee, of Rajbalhat, in the Hooghly district, went to bathe in the Brahmaputra river in last *Chaitra* (March) with her mother and some villagers. But unfortunately a certain *badmash* managed to take her away from the bathing *ghat*, and by a successive turn of events she is now lodged in the house of a certain well-known Bhatta-*charjea*, of Khanjapur, in the jurisdiction of the Gournadi police-station, district of Backergunge. The rumour is that the girl is the unmarried daughter of a *Naikusa Kulm*, of 18 or 19 years of age, * * * and is unwilling to marry the Bhatta-*charjea*. * * * In her distress she is constantly shedding tears. I went to that Bhatta-*charjea*'s house and heard the sad thing. * * * This girl has a disease which occasionally makes her unconscious. Babu Bipin Chandra Das, a medical practitioner of Bharthi, went there to treat her. He thoroughly knows these facts."

With these stern facts before us, the authorities will, we hope, pardon us for our impertinence if we refuse to accept their assurance as to the groundlessness of the reports as complete and final. We would humbly beg them to sift the matter closely on the lines suggested by the abovenamed two correspondents.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 14th, 1901.

20. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th May says that the police have become all in all in the Faridpur district. Judicial officers view cases sent up by the police in precisely the same light in which they are viewed by the police themselves. Judicial independence is almost unknown in this country. That District Judges are no better than puppets in the hands of their superiors, the Divisional Commissioners and the Lieutenant-Governor, has been clearly and conclusively shown by that ideal Judge, Mr. Pennell.

In these days it is the police which exercise all real power. The equanimity of the highest authorities in the land was disturbed when they heard that a low-class European like Reily had been sent to the *hajst*. The result has been that a noble member of the Civil Service has been ruined, and his judgment in a murder case reversed. So that the Deputy Magistrates and the Magistrate of Faridpur are only acting wisely when they propitiate as they are now doing the all-powerful police and carry out the orders of their official superiors. For one should always consult one's own interests.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

21. The same paper has the following about the Honorary Magistrates in the Faridpur district:—

Babu Dina Nath Sen, an Honorary Magistrate of Madaripur, has been serving in that capacity for

nearly fifteen years. His age is about seventy years, and he has a son who is a pleader in Madaripur. Under these circumstances, Dina Babu should be made to resign his Honorary Magistrateship.

Babu Navin Krishna Basu, an Honorary Magistrate of Faridpur town, who is 65 years of age, has also served long on the Honorary bench. In regard to every petition that is made to his court, he seeks and follows the advice of his peshkar.

Maulavi Amiraddin has served as an Honorary Magistrate of Faridpur town for more than five years.

It is hoped that henceforward the rule that an Honorary Magistrate shall not serve in one place for more than five years will be given effect to in Faridpur.

22. The *Pullivasi* [Kalna] of the 15th May writes as follows:—

Complaint against Mr. Foley, Burdwan Collectorate, brought a charge of criminal insult against Babu Hari Nath Chakravarti, the Secretary of the local Municipality. In March last, Jamin Ali had taken lease of a municipal tank at a public sale. After this, some municipal mehters went to catch fish from this tank and were handed over to the Police by Jamin Ali. Hari Babu was enraged at this and insulted Jamin Ali. This is Jamin Ali's case. On the other hand, the mehters complained to the Secretary that they had been wrongly handed over to the Police by Jamin Ali. This complaint was reported to Mr. Foley, the Magistrate of Burdwan. Mr. Foley forced Jamin Ali to withdraw his case. The following is the letter of withdrawal which he wrote to Mr. Foley on the 2nd April:—

PULLIVASI,
May 15th, 1901.

To

The Magistrate of Burdwan.

SIR,

As your honour is displeased with me for bringing a criminal case under section 504, Indian Penal Code, against one Hari Nath Chakravarti, of Burdwan Municipality, I beg to withdraw it under section 248, Criminal Procedure Code. I pray that your honour may be graciously pleased to ask the Chairman not to cancel my lease of the tank which has been granted to me at a public sale by the highest bid.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMIN ALI.

On the 3rd April, the Magistrate dismissed the case, and wrote the following judgment:—

The complainant is absent, and yesterday wrote to me withdrawing the case. The case is dismissed under section 259, Criminal Procedure Code.

(Sd.) B. FOLEY.

The 3rd April 1901.

Why did Mr. Foley dismiss the case on the ground of the absence of the complainant when, in reality, it was withdrawn in accordance with his wish?

Mr. Foley has also issued the following general order:—

BURDWAN MAGISTRACY,

Order No. 14 of 1901.

A case has come to my notice in which a ministerial officer of the Collectorate has brought a criminal case under section 504, Indian Penal Code, against the Secretary of the Municipality. If any ministerial officer wishes to bring a criminal case against any other officer of the Collector or Magistrate's office or allied offices, *e.g.*, the Municipality or the Raj Manager, he must first bring the case to my notice.

(Sd.) B. FOLEY.

The 31st March 1901.

This was not the first time that he issued an order of this kind. Some time ago he issued an order that no charge should be brought against any police officer without the sanction of his official superiors. Recently the local Deputy Magistrate asked his permission to bring a criminal charge against a police officer. But Mr. Foley ordered that the case should be postponed for the present and resumed after six months.

This general order is likely to prove oppressive to the clerks of the Burdwan Collectorate, because the heads of departments will now mercilessly lord it over their subordinates. The law courts are open to all, and it is not proper to lay down separate rules for a few *amla*. The Government is requested to consider this order of Mr. Foley's.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 15th, 1901.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th May has the following:—

The *Pioneer* and Mr. Pennell.

According to the *Pioneer*, the public are singing the praise of Mr. Pennell so much simply because he abused the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor, and other high officials. The *Pioneer* sees that Mr. Pennell is being universally praised in this country. Many officials too have come to understand that Mr. Pennell has won the hearts of the whole native population. This feeling of regard entertained by the native public towards Mr. Pennell is not viewed with pleasure by many. So they are trying to asperse Mr. Pennell and the natives by making an absurd allegation. The *Pioneer* says that the natives do not love the Viceroy or the Lieutenant-Governor. What heinous offence have they committed that they should be disliked by the entire native population? There can be no greater narrow mindedness and want of foresight than that betrayed by the *Pioneer*. It is true that Mr. Pennell has taken the highest officials to task in his judgment, but what will the natives gain by that? If Mr. Pennell's abuse of the Viceroy be supposed to have delighted the people, then they would surely have been beside themselves with joy, when a few days ago the columns of the *Pioneer* showered endless vituperations on the Viceroy. In that case, the people would have garlanded the *Pioneer* and raised subscriptions for preserving statues and oil paintings of those who conduct that paper. But they did nothing of the kind. So it is not the case that the public are paying homage to Mr. Pennell simply because he abused the Viceroy. Instead of that being the case, they are on the contrary sorry that Mr. Pennell has permitted himself to indulge in severe strictures in his judgment against high officials. His judgment would have been of greater value if it had been free from that defect.

The reason of Mr. Pennell's popularity is not far to seek. He is an embodiment of that justice which is considered by British moralists as the ornament of a Judge and as the backbone of the English character. His burning love of justice made him disregard the threats of the highest officials, as well as his own worldly interests. He knew very well that he would have to incur great risk and yet boldly exposed some of the evils of the administration. This is the only cause of his universal popularity in India. We have nothing to do with that portion of his judgment which deals with personal matters. When he delivered his famous judgment in the Chapra case, were there in it any strictures against the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor or the High Court? But when he exposed clearly the evil resulting from the unholy alliance of the judiciary with the executive, the people at once regarded him as a true British Judge and became attached to him.

Mr. Pennell's judgment has enabled the natives to see clearly how far the police exercise influence over the executive, and shows vividly and accurately how the exercise of such influence often interferes with and baffles the administration of impartial justice.

Has not the able Judge, Mr. Geidt, too, corroborated the allegations made by Mr. Pennell against the Noakhali police? Why, then, should Mr. Pennell be found fault with? The people of this country do not expect from a paper like the *Pioneer* an expression of impartial opinion; so it is no wonder that it should try to bias Government by unsound and onesided arguments. When the petty question of personal grudge and abuse will be forgotten, Government will understand that Mr. Pennell has acted like a real friend.

24. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 14th May has the following:—

Complaint against a Munsif in Barisal.

Babu Kedar Nath Chatterjee, the 6th Munsif of Barisal, has earned notoriety within a very short period. He shows scant courtesy even to grey-headed and respectable pleaders. Formerly, in the 6th Munsif's Court, plaints and applications were filed before the Court peshkar, and the Munsif afterwards passed necessary orders in the presence of the parties or their pleaders. This practice is still observed in all other courts, but it is not followed by Kedar Babu. He has also introduced many new and arbitrary rules.

BIKAS,
May 14th, 1901.

25. In an article on the Koderma shooting case communicated to the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 17th May, the writer says:—

The Koderma shooting case.

RANGALAYA,
May 17th, 1901.

The Chota Nagpur Division is still full of jungle and the inhabitants are in a very low stage of civilisation. Living as they do in the midst of wild animals and in the depths of forests, they have acquired the disposition and habits of beasts. To make men of these Kols, Bhils, Sonthals, &c., the civilised English have opened coal, mica, iron and other mines in these parts, and Christian missionaries are labouring to save the souls of these barbarians from destruction. Jungle is being cleared. The wild quadrupeds of the forest are being extirpated, as also such among those Kols, Bhils, &c., as refuse to accept the western civilization and do not fear to make forest resound with the beatings of their drums on the occasion of their *banaspati puja*. The latter too are being killed like vermin. The Koderma case has been a case of killing of this kind. It seems to us that it would be well for Government to contribute to the Famine Fund the money that it spends on the conduct of such cases. The Indians have gone on dying from time immemorial. The death of "kala admi" is not of much consequence. What is of consequence is that arrangements should be made for enabling the survivors to pay taxes and to serve Europeans up to the time of their death.

26. Referring to the Koderma shooting case, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 18th May says that Mr. Whyte has been acquitted after trial in which he was proved not

The Koderma shooting case.

BASUMATI,
May 18th, 1901.

guilty. This is really a matter of great joy. It is our prayer that the sahib, and after him, his son and sons' sons, &c., may thus go on killing native coolies, and thereby earning fame, religious merit and salvation for themselves.

27. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 18th May says that the bailiffs of the Calcutta Small Cause Court and the process-serving peons of the Calcutta Police Court realise

Exactions of bailiffs and peons in Calcutta.

NAVAYUG,
May 18th, 1901.

exorbitant sums from parties on account of carriage hire. Over and above this, they must have their *baksis*. All this proves very oppressive to litigants.

28. Referring to the Koderma shooting case, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th May writes as follows:—

The Koderma shooting case.

PRATIVASI,
May 20th, 1901.

The plea set up by Mr. Whyte in self-defence does not appear satisfactory. Why should his assailants have come with offerings for worship if their object was to attack him? It is not possible that the learned jury did not see this, but the public impression is that their sympathy for a fellow-countryman stood in the way of their doing impartial justice in the case.

There is nothing new in this trial. That Europeans get off scot-free when they are charged with killing a native is neither an unusual nor unnatural event in India. It does no great harm to the natives too. It does not matter much if one or two of these natives are occasionally shot dead by Europeans, for do they not like beasts die by hundreds every year, of malaria, plague, small-pox and other diseases? But the occurrence of such cases is to be regretted inasmuch as they cast a stigma on the British administration of justice and imply a complete disregard of the British principle of equality caused by the pride of prosperity and partiality for fellow-countymen. Every thoughtful man can see how in their eagerness to save a fellow countryman a European jury are doing an insult to justice and impairing the foundations of British rule by weakening the tie of affection which binds the rulers to their subjects.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1901.

29. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 14th May says that many pound-keepers bribe people to capture and bring to their pounds even cattle to which the Cattle Trespass Act is not applicable. According to the rules, the pound keepers levy a few annas per every head of cattle that is brought to the pounds. But by such indiscriminate capture of cattle, innocent persons are made to pay the penalty. Moreover, there are no proper arrangements for housing and feeding the impounded animals.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 15th, 1901.

30. Referring to the mosquito and the malaria question, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th May writes as follows:—

The assurance given by European *sarants* that malaria will die out with the destruction of the mosquito in the near future is far from encouraging, and it is one which we, for our part, do not believe. Moreover, the fact is, that besides the mosquito which poisons the blood of the Indians, there are other animals like it which suck the life-blood of India. Poverty of blood is the chief cause of malaria. Under a foreign administration, and as a result of foreign trade, the blood of India is more and more deteriorating, both in quality and quantity every day, and this is the principal cause of malaria in India. There was the mosquito before, but the mortality from malaria was not so great as at present. The truth is malaria in this country would not have been so fatal if the people had been well fed.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

31. Referring to the prevalence of water scarcity in the mufassal, the same paper writes as follows:—

The road cess and water scarcity. When the road cess was first proposed to be introduced, the Duke of Argyll, the then Secretary of State for India, was not in favour of the proposal. When at last he consented to it, it was clearly laid down that the proceeds of the cess would be made available for expenditure by the people themselves, and the authorities in this country too made a distinct promise to the effect that public opinion would be consulted in the matter of imposing the cess. But in practice neither the one nor the other has been done.

In the 23rd paragraph of his Despatch, the Duke of Argyll directed the Government of India to see that the road cess assessment was not unduly high, but just adequate to the purpose. But this order of the Secretary of State was not obeyed. In the same paragraph it was stated that the road cess fund should be utilised for the purpose of sinking wells and excavating tanks, besides that of road making. Sir George Campbell, too, distinctly supported the above statement. But how the road cess fund is now utilised by our District Boards is not unknown to the public. The Duke of Argyll also wrote that the fund must not be used for any other purposes than those for which it was started; and that the men of light and leading in the country should be consulted as to the way the cess was to be assessed and its proceeds spent.

But the road cess revenue is now being misspent, and thousands of rate-payers in different districts are suffering terribly from scarcity of water. What thousands of people are obliged to drink in the mufassal is no water, but poison, and this poison has to be fetched by many of them from a distance of 4 or 5 miles in these hot days. It is a matter of wonder that many villages have not yet been completely depopulated. The only way to remove this acute water scarcity is to spend the road cess fund properly. The proposal made by Sir Alexander Mackenzie in this connection might be followed with advantage.

Government assured the rate-payers that it would remove the prevailing water scarcity if they paid a certain tax. But when they paid that tax, Government forgot its promise. In their disappointment, the raiyats appealed to Government again and again, and their appeal at least elicited from the rulers the reply "why do you annoy us, you may excavate tanks for yourselves with your own labour and at your own cost?"

NAVAYUG,
May 18th, 1901.

32. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 18th May says that the condition of the northern section, i.e., the native wards of the Calcutta Municipality, has become extremely miserable. Mehlers cleanse the privies on alternate days,

Complaints against the Calcutta Municipality.

and if asked why they do so, say that such is the order. The Conservancy Inspectors do not mind this. They carry on their inspections riding carriages or bicycles, and show a complete disregard for the sanitary state of their respective wards. Recently a hydrant in Ward No. 6 being out of order continually discharged water for more than two days without attracting the notice of any municipal employé. The watering of streets has become a matter of convenience with the Municipality. If complained against, the executive say that coolies have fled on account of the plague. But what do we see in the European quarters? Are not all the streets there regularly and fully watered at 1 P.M.? The bazars are full of bad, adulterated and rotten articles of food, and the Food Inspectors, of whom there are too many in Calcutta, scarcely inspect them.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including canals and irrigation.*

33. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th May says that the steamer with passengers from Madaripur, Dacca, Narainganj, &c., arrives at Goalundo ghat at 5-30 P.M., but the train for Faridpur starts before its arrival. So that the passengers for Faridpur have to wait the whole night at Goalundo ghat. It behoves the Railway authorities to remove their inconvenience.

Faridpur Hitaishini,
May 14th, 1901.

34. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th May has the following:—
Some officials are at present engaged in a controversy regarding the comparative merits of railways and canals. Some of them are of opinion that the railways in India have saved the country by facilitating export of food-grains in times of distress. If it were not possible to export from a country its surplus stock of food-grains to other localities, it would only rot in the granaries or lead to an increase of thefts and dacoities. This reasoning does not appear very sound. Did surplus food grains rot in the granaries when there were no railways in India? Is it true that the excess stock found no sale and consequently impoverished the country? So far from that being the case, death from starvation was never heard of in the past, for there could be no death from starvation when there was plentiful supply of food in the country. We are really sometimes tempted to wish that the scientific blessings of modern civilization were at an end, and that the people of the country might again live happily with their families enjoying full meals. Of what use are scientific blessings to those who have to starve for want of food? Thousands of maunds of rice are exported to Europe for brewing wine, while the people of India do not get even the husks. There can be no objection to the extension of railways, if Government can put a stop to the export of food-grains to foreign countries. Has the Government been able to cope successfully with the terrible scourge of famine during the period which has elapsed since the railway was first opened in Bombay in 1854?

Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika,
May 15th, 1901.

35. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 16th May draws the attention of the authorities of the Assam-Bengal Railway to the absence of a platform and a waiting-room at the Sitakundu station, which causes great inconvenience to the passengers, and specially to the female passengers. It is also complained that there is no refreshment-room for natives in larger stations, the wretched one at Chandpur having been abolished by the Railway Company. There is yet another grievance which should be removed, viz., want of drinking water. In these hot days, the passengers cry for water, but it is not supplied at any station.

Jyoti,
May 16th, 1901.

36. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 14th May has the following:—

Burdwan Sanjivani,
May 14th, 1901.

We learn from reliable sources that the Govindpur subdivision will be incorporated with the Burdwan district from June next. We are glad to hear that Government has come to this decision. Thanks to the arrangement Government proposes to make, many people will no longer find it necessary to go to Ranchi. Such an arrangement will doubtless prove convenient to the litigants; only the pleaders and mukhtars of Purulia will have to suffer to some

extent. But we think that for the sake of a few pleaders and mukhtars, Government will not fail to adopt a measure that is calculated to prove generally beneficial.

As to the proposed coal district with its head-quarter at Asensol, we fail to see why the proposal should receive the support of Government. If an additional Subordinate Judge be posted to Burdwan, there will be no need of opening a new district for the disposal of civil suits. But if Government thinks that a proper disposal of criminal cases would demand the establishment of a separate district, then of course it may, with advantage, establish a district like that of Howrah at Asensol.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 14th, 1901.

37. The same paper expresses sorrow at the transfer of Maulvi Abdul Kader from Burdwan to Mymensingh. It highly enlogizes him for his gentlemanliness, administrative ability, independence, and conscientiousness.

The Deputy Magistrate Maulvi Abdul Kader.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 16th, 1901.

38. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th May, referring to the proposed abolition of the Bankura district, suggests that the proposed coal district may be formed with Gangajalghati, Mejia, Raniganj, Asensol and Govindpur; that Garhbetta, Vishnupur, Raipur, Onda, Bankura Sadar and Purulia may go to form the new Bankura district; and that Sonamukhi, Indas and Kotulpur may be re-amalgamated with the Burdwan district. There would be no inconvenience if this proposal were adopted.

The proposed abolition of the Bankura district.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 18th, 1901.

39. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 18th May is sorry that the Deputy Commissioner of Chaibassa made a clerk of his office stand up on the bench for making a clerical mistake. When the saheb saw that the clerk was making delay in obeying his order, he came to assault him with his stick. This state of affairs does not look well.

Corporal punishment of a clerk.

BHARAT MITRA.

40. The same paper is sorry that the Indians have been nearly shut out from the Roorkee College and the Engineering Colleges in England. Even the Sibpur College, the only institution in which the native students could learn that profession, is going to be shut up against them. A new restriction has been introduced in the rules of the College, and it is as follows:—The European candidates who have got less marks than native candidates should, if physically stronger than the latter, be given preference in distributing appointments. Such partiality on the part of the Government looks very shameful.

The new rule about engineering appointments.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

ROZNAAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABUL
MATEEN,
May 20th, 1901.

41. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 20th May says that the Musalmans of Cashmere have been displeased on hearing that the Maharaja is recalling Pandit Hargopal, who, some time ago, was punished for blaspheming the Koran and the Muhammadan religion. This step on the part of the Raja may excite the religious prejudices of the Musalmans. If His Highness is bent upon recalling the Pandit, he may do so. But he should do it in such a way as not to give the Musalmans any cause for creating a disturbance. He should have regard to the feelings of his Musalman subjects.

The Maharaja of Cashmere and his Musalman subjects.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

FARIDPUR,
HITAISHINI,
May 14th, 1901.

42. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th May says that there is acute water scarcity in every place within the Rajbari subdivision of the Faridpur district. Tanks have all dried up. The condition of the people is extremely miserable.

Water scarcity in the Faridpur district.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 14th, 1901.

43. The *Charu Mihr* [Mymensingh] of the 14th May says that famine and water scarcity are keenly felt in the villages of Nagarbari, Narandia and Daulatpur in the Mymensingh district.

Famine and water scarcity in some villages in the Mymensingh district.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 9th May has heard many complaints against Rai Kali Prasanna Ghose Bahadur of Dacca, and refers to the allegations made against him by the *Dacca Prakash* newspaper. The Bhawal Estate is entirely under his control. The way in which he is said to be misusing the estate funds and winning over the local officials to his side, is perfectly unjustifiable. The Jaydevpur Raj family is a very ancient one, but it will be soon ruined if it falls a victim to vice. It behoves Government and the public to prevent this ancient and noble family from falling into disgrace and discredit.

JYOTI,
May 9th, 1901.

45. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th May has the following under the heading "What is one to make of all this?"

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 14th, 1901.

Impoverishment of India under British rule.

Where the reason of a thing is obvious, people can easily understand how it came about. But where the reason is not so obvious, people are at a loss to make out how it came to pass.

Lately Mr. B. L. Gupta has been appointed a Judge of the High Court and Mr. K. G. Gupta has been made a Divisional Commissioner. Mr. B. L. Gupta had the advantage of many Judges in point of learning, intelligence, ability, and judicial acumen as well as of seniority. Many Civilian Judges have been promoted over his head, and in due course the promotion should have come to him much earlier. How is it then that he has been promoted just now?

Mr. K. G. Gupta, too, is an able man. He showed himself long ago superior to English Civilians by the proofs he afforded of his administrative ability, his literary skill, his deep thoughtfulness, as well as by the profit he brought in to Government by the able manner in which he discharged his official duties. He has long been well known to Government for his ability as well as seniority. It was long ago that he established his claims to a Divisional Commissionership. What, then, are people to make of his tardy promotion to the office just at this moment?

When Mr. Ramesh Chandra Datta was proposed to be made a Divisional Commissioner, European Civilians expressed their dissatisfaction on all sides, and some Collectors went away on leave, and others secured transfers to avoid serving under a Bengali. Now too a black Bengali has been made a Divisional Commissioner, but we do not hear of any white Civilian having prayed for leave or transfer. What is one to make of this?

Many important newspapers have expressed their joy at this elevation of native civilians to high offices, but almost none of them have assigned any reason for these sudden promotions. No action can be praised till its motive is known. We, for one, fancy ourselves seeing Mr. Pennell shedding tears over these appointments.

The High Court and the Bengal Government have sacrificed their self-respect in the Noakhali murder case, while the Government of India has acted as the presiding priest in connection with this sacrifice. For the sake of a common Englishman like Mr. Reilly, they have lowered the dignity of the office of Judge and of the Civil Service. The post of a Civilian has been made of no more account than that of a Deputy Magistrate. Why did the High Court and the Bengal Government ask that saintly man and model Judge, Mr. Pennell, not to send Mr. Reilly to *hajrat*? Why did they go that length? Was it because they thought that Englishmen would lose caste in India if they were to be convicted of offences and, what was worse, sent to *hajrat*? It is this thought that made the Governments of India and Bengal and the High Court uneasy. That is why they cared nothing for the displeasure, annoyance and discontent of millions, and made no account of the disgust that would be excited in the public mind. That is why they have harassed in various ways that glory of English law courts, that model of justice and that best of Judges, Mr. Pennell. That is why a peacock of a Pennell has suffered so much at the hands of a jackdaw of a Reilly!

The disgrace that had been successively brought on the High Court by Sir Eliza Impey hanging Nandakumar for forgery, by Sir Mordaunt Wells sending the Revd. Mr. Long to jail in the Nildarpan case, and by Mr. Justice

Norris sentencing Surendra Nath Banerji to imprisonment for contempt of court, has now been consummated by Sir Francis Maclean. The highminded Sir Barnes Peacock sent Mr. Taylor, the Commissioner of the Patna Division, to *hajrat* for having insulted Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitra. The Government of India then arranged for keeping Mr. Taylor confined in a house in Chowringhee. When Sir Barnes Peacock came to know of this misconduct on the part of Government, he issued a circular stating that the powers of all law courts had been suspended, and was about to publish it in the *Gazette of India*. The Government got alarmed and apologised and sent Mr. Taylor to the Alipore Jail. The High Court was then High Court indeed, and the word "Honourable" could then be fittingly prefixed to it.

After what has now taken place, we shall be ashamed to prefix the word "Honourable" to the High Court and shall hold the post of a civilian in little esteem. That is why Mr. B. L. Gupta has been made a Judge of the High Court and Mr. K. G. Gupta has been appointed a Divisional Commissioner after this long time. What are we to think of these promotions but as a sop to native Civilians?

Ever since they acquired supremacy and sovereignty in India, the English have been maintaining their own countrymen with Indian money. Although Indian wealth and the Sikh, Gurkha, and Hindustani soldiers are the root of the happiness and prosperity of the English nation, the Indians have nothing to gain by English rule. Because Australia rendered help to England in the South African war, the Indian Civil Service Examination will henceforth be held in that country. Indians have rendered pecuniary help for the prosecution of the wars in China and Africa, and have also shed their blood on the battle-field, and Englishmen are indebted to India for their maintenance, wealth and glory, and yet the Civil Service Examination will never be held in India. The doors of the Roorkee College are in a manner closed against natives, and the doors of the Patna and Sibpur Engineering Colleges will also probably soon be closed against them. Indians are not admitted into English workshops. A Bombay youth who went to England to study glass manufacture has learnt this by bitter experience.

When Englishmen acquired sovereignty in India, they first addressed themselves to the task of ousting the French and the Dutch. They could not bear to see that any other European nation should have a share of the Indian rice-dish. But a compromise was soon effected with the brother whitemen, and the Indian deer was divided among Europeans, Australians and Americans. The English too obtained facilities for acquiring supremacy and extending trade in all countries. They established supremacy and extended trade in other countries with the help of Indian money and Indian troops. They divided the Indian deer among all whitemen—Europeans, Americans and Australians, but no Indian was allowed to set foot on foreign soil, even as a cooly. What are we to understand from this treatment of Indians by the English Government in India? Why is this poverty and distress which India suffers? Why are her bones and marrow ground down? Why are millions of Indians emaciated from starvation? Why are their throats parched with thirst? India's life-blood was not sucked out in the least even by a thousand years of Musalman rule. Under that rule, famine occurred in a place scarcely once in a century. Why is this universal and chronic famine in India? Hindu criminals have been executed under Hindu rule, and hundreds of Musalman criminals have been executed under Musalman rule. But how is it that heaven, earth and the nether regions tremble when an English criminal in these days runs any risk of punishment? Why are the supreme divinities presiding over the destinies of India troubled at heart to see an Englishman run such risk? Why are they all suckers of India's blood and not its nourishers? What are we to make of all this?

Lord Curzon said in the Queen's memorial meeting, "Every country suffers more or less from scarcity like India." Fit words indeed to be addressed to the 300 millions of sheep inhabiting India.

India has been under English rule for the last 143 years. Of the 96 crores of Indian revenue, by far the greatest portion is appropriated every year to defraying the home charges, amounting to 34 crores, to the payment of the English officers in India, to the preparation of alloyed gold and silver coins

amounting to 10 crores, and to the purchase of English articles for India. Europeans, Americans and Australians have chloroformed the Indian deer by their commerce and their manufactures, and are draining away all her wealth. India has been subjected to this sucking process for 193 years. How will she bear this constant drain? If all Europe had been subjected but for one year to a drain similar to that which India is undergoing, hungry cats would have wailed beside the European's dinner table and rats would have perished through hunger in empty European granaries. Let Lord Curzon read the account of how Englishmen fared in India in the days of his great-grandfather during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jhan, and he will find nothing but an account of rope-beds, dark sleeping rooms and tattered breeches.

The English are ruling India by force. They are extending their trade and propagating their religion by an exercise of their sovereign authority. That is why there is scarcity of food and water in India. What other conclusion can we possibly arrive at?

What has India gained by the 143 years of British rule? Does Lord Curzon want to see what India has obtained during the 63 years of Queen Victoria's reign? Lord Curzon is anxious to erect a huge edifice on the maidan in the shape of a memorial to the Queen with the object of showing to foreigners what love the English Government in India has for the Indian people as well as of preventing the possibility of such embarrassing questions being put as "How far the rights of Indians have been affected by British rule? How the present administration differs from that of the Musalman rulers? What oppressions have been committed under British rule? How far and in what respects have Indians enjoyed the favour of the Queen? How far has love for the people which is the great inspirer of loyalty been shown in India?" By this Lord Curzon will obtain the four great blessings of human life, namely, virtue, wealth, emancipation, as well as the object of his desire, and something more.

(1) Marshman and Elphinstone have canceled English oppressions by writing histories. This edifice will serve as a cover for all past stains on the British administration.

(2) The Viceroy's name will be recorded in history.

(3) Flags will be hoisted and drums will be beat to welcome him on his landing in England.

(4) There will stand on the maidan a striking evidence of the fact that India is not poor, and that will help the work of sucking. These are the four objects that will be gained.

But there is yet one more object that will be attained by this. If two crores of rupees are collected for the memorial building, Rs. 1,90,00,000 out of it will find its way into the pockets of English merchants, engineers and masons in the shape of price for the English materials which will be used in it from top to foundation, and only Rs. 10,000 will go to Indians in the shape of cart and cooly hire. Will Lord Curzon console Indians even after this by the assurance that every country suffers more or less from scarcity like India?

Everywhere in India there is scarcity of food and water. Trade and manufactures are in an extremely bad condition. Twenty thousand wells and tanks could have been sunk and excavated with these two crores of rupees. If an image of the Queen had been set up by each of these tanks and wells, millions of Hindus could have bathed and performed devotions in them every day. Thousands of Musalmans could have washed their faces, hands and feet as well as allayed their thirst with their water. Cattle could have drunk in them. Would not these have been memorials to the Queen? These would have supplied people's wants but would not have brought in any profit to England. In that case, Englishmen could not have been maintained with Indian money in the name of the loyalty of the Indians, and there would have been no opportunity for making out India, which is oppressed with poverty and distress, to be a rich country in the eyes of foreigners, and there would have been nothing to cover the extreme emaciation of India caused by the heavy English drain extending over nearly a century and-a-half. What other conclusion can we possibly arrive at from the erection of an edifice in Calcutta with Indian money?

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
May 9th, 1901.

46. Referring to the proposal to hold simultaneous examination in England and Australia for the Indian Civil Service, the *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 9th May and the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 11th May are of opinion that the examination should also be held in India. Though the Indians applied for the privilege more than once, and though Parliament approved of the idea, the authorities have firmly opposed the proposal. It is a matter of regret that while facilities are afforded to Australia to govern India, greatest obstacles are thrown in the way of the Indians entering the Civil Service of their own mother-country.

UTKALDIPIKA,
May 11th, 1901.

47. Referring to the prophecy of K. P. Saraswati that there will be a scarcity of food, amounting to famine, in the Orissa Division in the ensuing year, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 11th May gives a warning to the people of the province and the local officials, and suggests that the economic condition of the people should be watched with anxious forethought and due diligence.

UTKALDIPIKA.

48. The same paper supports the prayer of the British Indian Association, asking Government to exempt *chaukidari* lands from the operation of the Road Cess and Public Works Cess Acts. These lands were made over to the zamindars on the distinct understanding that half of the *jama* would go to the village panchayat and the other half remitted in consideration of the fact that the zamindars would lose the services of the *chaukidars*. The imposition of the *chaukidari* tax would therefore mean that Government was going to resume virtually the *jama* that it had remitted in consideration of the loss of the services of the *chaukidars* sustained by the zamindars.

UTKALDIPIKA.

49. A correspondent of the same paper writes on behalf of the zamindars of Orissa that they are unable to realise from their tenants rents sufficient to enable them to satisfactorily meet the Government demand, and that, as a consequence, they are contracting debts, which must, in the long run, prove fatal to their landed interests. The correspondent therefore prays that the Legislature may come to their help and arm them with summary powers, whereby they can realise rents without any difficulty whatever.

NARAYN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th May, 1901.